



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Media Release

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Windsor welcomes funds for Namoi Coal/Water study

Not taking “NO” for an answer has paid off for the Liverpool Plains Land Management Committee (LPLMC) with the announcement by the Federal Minister for the Environment and Water, Malcolm Turnbull of \$4.5m to undertake a study into the groundwater interconnectivity of the area.

The Independent Member for New England Tony Windsor has congratulated the LPLMC and welcomed the Minister’s announcement.

“I congratulate David Walker, Executive Officer of the Liverpool Plains Land Management Committee, Namoi Water’s CEO John Clements and the lobbying efforts of the Caroon Coal Action Group on their commitment to having an independent study done into the Namoi Valley groundwater system and therefore the potential impact of proposed coal mining around Caroon.

I welcome Minister Turnbull’s announcement of \$4.5m for the study which will provide very valuable information to all stakeholders so that decisions about future land use can be based on good science rather than unconfirmed theories,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor is very pleased that good sense has prevailed following an initial knock-back for funding.

“Following the initial knock-back for funding through the National Water Commission, it appeared that good sense had disappeared.

As I have said before and maintained from day one, there is very little science available with regard to the interconnectivity of groundwater and surface water and given the inadequate provisions of the New South Wales planning processes regarding off-site impacts of mining on high water bearing groundwater aquifers like are found on the Liverpool Plains that an independent study had to be done.

Without such a study, there is a very real risk that irreparable damage could be done to a highly productive agricultural area if mining commences and fractures aquifers that then can’t be stemmed.

It will be too late if the aquifer is breached and then cuts off underground flows to other aquifers downstream up to perhaps 200kms away.

I look forward to seeing the details of how the study will be undertaken and more importantly, I look forward to the best outcome for all concerned without impacting negatively on this highly productive agriculture region,” Mr Windsor said.

Further information contact Tony Windsor, Ph (02) 6761 3080 or 0427 66 8868